

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of publishing a communication state of a terminal connected to an access network that detects a communication state of said terminal ~~notified as a current communication state to a communication state publishing arrangement connected to said access network and to a packet network~~, including:

notifying said communication state of said terminal as a current communication state from said access network to a communication state publishing gateway connected to said access network,

enquiring a database from said publishing gateway via a packet network to select a voluntary communication state previously decided by said terminal in said database and to select an apparent communication state corresponding to said voluntary communication state in said database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway, and

responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state:

modifying said current communication state to said apparent communication state in said publishing gateway,

transforming said ~~current~~ apparent communication state (EG) of said terminal

into an instant messaging communication state in said publishing arrangement gateway,
and

transferring said instant messaging communication state from said publishing arrangement gateway to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[2]]1, wherein said voluntary communication state is selected by said terminal on a server connected to said packet network and then stores ~~the voluntary communication state~~ in said database.

4. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, including selecting a current action to be established in said access network of said terminal and associated with said current communication state in a database as a function of ~~an~~ said identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing arrangement gateway in order for that ~~said~~ current action to be commanded subsequently by said publishing arrangement gateway.

5. (Currently Amended) A method as claimed in claim [[2]]1, including selecting a current action to be established in said access network of said terminal and associated with said current communication state in a database as a function of an

identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing arrangement gateway in order for ~~that~~ said current action to be commanded subsequently by said publishing arrangement ~~—gateway~~, selecting an action associated with said voluntary communication state, and modifying ~~the~~ said current action to said action associated with said voluntary communication state.

6. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein said action associated with said voluntary communication state is selected by said terminal on a server connected to said packet network and then stores in said database.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~system~~ publishing gateway for publishing a communication state of a terminal connected to an access network that ~~detects~~ is adapted to detect a communication state of said terminal ~~notified as a current communication state~~, said ~~system~~ publishing gateway comprising:

an access interface connected to said access network for receiving a notification of said communication state of said terminal as a current communication state from said access network,

an enquiring unit for enquiring a database via a packet network to select a voluntary communication state previously decided by said terminal in said database and to select an apparent communication state corresponding to said voluntary communication state in said database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said publishing gateway, and

a communication state modifying unit arranged to modify said current communication state to said apparent communication state in said publishing gateway responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state.

~~a communication state publishing arrangement connected to said access network and to a packet network;~~

~~a transforming arrangement~~communication state management unit for arranged
to transforming-transform said ~~current~~apparent communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state, and

~~a transferring arrangement~~an instant messaging interface for
transferringarranged to transfer said instant messaging communication state ~~from said publishing arrangement~~ to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (New) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said voluntary communication state is selected by a user of said terminal.

10. (New) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said voluntary communication state is defined independently of said detected communication state of said terminal.

11. (New) A publishing gateway as claimed in claim 7, the communication state management unit arranged to transform said apparent communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state.

12. (New) A publishing gateway as claimed in claim 7, the instant messaging interface arranged to transfer said instant messaging communication state to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state.

13. (New) An advising gateway for advising a communication state of a terminal connected to an access network that is adapted to detect a communication state of said terminal, said advising gateway comprising:

an access interface connected to said access network for receiving a notification of said communication state of said terminal as a current communication state from said access network,

an enquiring unit for enquiring a database via a packet network to select a voluntary communication state previously decided by said terminal in said database and to select an apparent communication state corresponding to said voluntary communication state in said database as a function of an identifier of said terminal transmitted by said advising gateway, and

a communication state modifying unit arranged to modify, responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state, said current communication state to said apparently communication state in said advising gateway,

a communication state management unit arranged to transform, responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state, said apparent communication state of said terminal into an instant messaging communication state, and

an instant messaging interface arranged to transfer, responsive to said apparent communication state differing from said current communication state, said instant messaging communication state to an instant messaging server connected to said packet network.